SACRED DANCE GUILD

JOURNAL

www.sacreddanceguild.org

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Festival 2008 - "What a Glorious Week!"

"Moving Mysteries"! What a glorious week we had dancing and celebrating the 50th Anniversary, Golden Jubilee, of the Sacred Dance Guild! 250 people – dancing participants, faculty, supporters and friends - joined together exploring the theme "Moving Mysteries" in celebration of Dance as a Sacred Art and in celebration of the integral role the Sacred Dance Guild has as an "umbrella" organization for all who view dance as an expression of the sacred and as a spiritual practice.

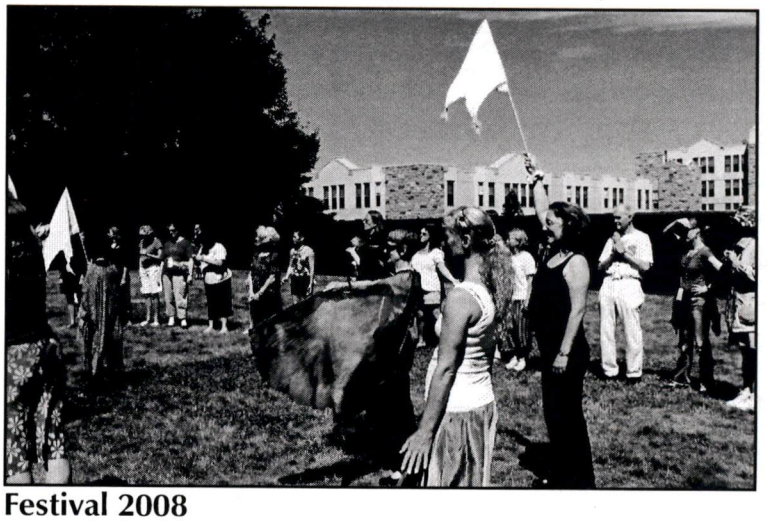
Toni' Intravaia, 50 year member, and Mary Jane Wolbers, founder.

Festival 2008 - we laughed and we cried and we danced with our hearts, souls and bodies! We opened with a mystical, magical night filled with wonderful masked movers, East Coast Tribal music and dancing and an energy that filled our hearts with smiles! We danced our way through classes from early morning to late afternoons. We learned and listened during the daily lecture series and the pre-concert talk. We watched with smiles and tears as participants shared their dances. We held our breath during the offerings at the Festival concert and the Faculty concert. We danced with wild abandon to the drums at Barefoot Boogie and contemplated in quiet reflection with the harp and flute at the Lumiere Labyrinth. We communed with nature and each other during our daily Morning Meditation. We shopped for amazing items at the Festival Store, the Thursday Bazaar and the Silent Auction. We laughed and reminisced during the presentations with our Presidents and other honored guests at the Annual Membership meeting and banquet. We wandered the amazing Exhibits at the Cro's Nest and many enjoyed wonderful conversations at "tea time" with our Living Legacies.

On Friday morning when we "closed" – there were sighs, smiles and tears - acknowledging the deep connections we had made. We left inspired anew to dance lightly through life carrying the sacred in our hearts and sharing that with those we meet along the way. These are the things that create a kinder, gentler, more compassionate and peaceful world in which we live and breathe and have our being. Thanks to everyone who participated in any way in our Festival 2008 Sacred Dance Festival.

Wendy Morrell, Festival Director
On behalf of the Sacred Dance Guild Board of Directors

Check out the web site (www.sacreddanceguild.org) to order Festival Photos, Videos, Bag or Towels, or complete a Festival Evaluation or to browse through Festival photos and other post festival news!



Festival 2008

President's Letter

A trio of quotes:

"Truth is one; the wise call it by many names." the Hindu Vedas

"The mystery itself is the doorway to all understanding." Tao Te Ching

"Dance is not merely a pleasure; it is an act good for the soul." Lucian of Samosata, an early Christian (125-180 CE)

Labyrinths: they take you into a deep place, a holy place, an enchanted place, a truthful and wise place, a mysterious place, a place good for the soul. You can walk them slowly, dance the path or skip and run it. And you can stay in the center as long as you want before you return. With labyrinths there are no rules. I walked my first labyrinth at the end of my first semester at Pacific School of Religion. Carla DeSola spread her maze in Mudd 100, surrounded it with flowers and candles in the fading December light, and we walked / danced it as our last movement together. In the spring I took Cynthia Winton-Henry's class, and she took us up into the Berkeley Hills one bright spring afternoon to walk an outdoor labyrinth. It had been an unusually rainy winter the natives had declared, and in places we needed to choose to slosh through mud, or straddle the rocks on either side. Many of us, at Cynthia's urging, had brought a small token to leave in the center, and many of us, in the sheer gaiety of spring and the joy of a labyrinth, decorated ourselves and each other with mud. When one of our Berkeley dance group members got engaged we borrowed Carla's labyrinth, and had a surprise shower. The gifts were all in the center when Laura arrived. We all walked in together, opened the gifts, and danced out.

I have come to love labyrinths, and walk them whenever the opportunity arises. In July those who were able to attend the Guild's fiftieth golden anniversary walked an evening candle-lit labyrinth together. There can be deep meditation in walking a labyrinth alone, and there can be tremendous community in walking it with many others. There is a coming and going, a passing of others, a smile, a hug, a touching of hands, a pas-de-deux. There is a knowledge that we are all here together. Each of us has a solo journey, but we are all part of the greater dance. We move to the center and draw deeply from what we find there, and then move back with renewal. That summarizes for me what the Guild is: a multitude of dancers of all ages, abilities and faiths sharing the importance of dance as an act good for the soul, a doorway to understanding the mystery, and a path towards the truth which goes by many names. Together we move into a center, and then back into our lives to share what we have learned from dancing together.

Those dancers who came together fifty years ago dreamed the impossible dream. They believed that people of many faiths, abilities and ages could dance together and find truth, mystery and food for the soul. It has been an extraordinary fifty years, and the world has been better for this. And we, the present labyrinth walkers, must not lose that dream. We must continue the journey toward the center together, and then out again into the world, as the spirits of our ancestors move among us with encouragement and hope. Let us dance forward together with impossible dreams for the next fifty years in one strong body, dancing, dancing, dancing together the truth, mystery, and food of the soul. Impossible dreams can become possible dancing together.

Karen Josephson

Audience dances Festival theme before Concert.

SACRED dance GUILD

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-Sacred Dance Guild Journal published three times a year
-Membership Directory with geographical and leadership listings printed annually
-Calendar of Events published in the Journal and online with regional, national, and international activities
-Membership in Chapter or Region with local events and activities
-Reduced fees at the International Festival held annually in different locations within the United States
-Reduced fees at Guild workshops and those of reciprocal organizations
-Reduced cost for all Guild publications
-Opportunity to be listed as a resource in the Online Resource Database
-Opportunity to create your own website to be linked to the SDG website
-Ability to sign up for email reminders for events listed on SDG Event Calendars
-Opportunity to be part of the All Members elist where sacred dance issues, concerns, and ideas are shared among members from all over the world

Subscription and membership orders should go to Sacred Dance Guild, 550 M Ritchie Highway #271, Severna Park, MD 21146.

Deadlines for JOURNAL: August 15, November 15 and March 15. Deadlines for the Events Calendar are the same as for the Journal. Articles of 500 words or less, dance activity, Chapter/Region/membership news, letters and black and white/color photographs should be sent by deadline dates to: Sacred Dance Guild Journal: journal@sacreddanceguild.org or Toni' Intravaia, Editor, 201 Hewitt, Carbondale, IL 62901.

EDITORIAL

Along with 200 other celebrants for the 50th Anniversary of the Sacred Dance Guild, "Moving Mysteries", I felt in love all over again with Moving in Prayer. Each day I participated with the 6:45 Awakening, but the rest of each day I visited the classes that were offered so that I could give you a glancing glimpse. Of course, Friday, Saturday and Sunday before the opening were days of meeting with the Board. That is always a privilege for me since I do not attend Board meetings during the year.

After the Awakenings each day came Meditation outside on the green. Each day had a Theme: "Awaken the Dancer", "We Honour the Mystery", "Be Present in Mystery", "Anticipate Mystery" and "We Manifest Mystery". The Theme "People from the East" (music and movement by Emmalyn Moreno) was danced for the opening; followed by prayer, music and meditation.

And would you believe it: We received a daily "paper" under our door each morning giving us the theme of the day and any corrections!!!!

Then each day came the Living Legacies meetings: Carla DeSola , Cynthia Winton-Henry, Phil Porter, Karen Josephson and Mary Jane Wolbers. They inspired the classes with beauty, truth, simple structure from body data, sign language and with the peace and Power of God. For the rest of the mornings Leah Mann, Judith Rock, Carlyn Reed, Katharine Harts, Wesley Yarbor kept busy with stamping, floor feeling, how to, contact with the ground, free flow, and "Move It!" No matter who or what, each class was motion spectacular.

With all of the SDG *Journal* readers I went with you to the classes with Stella Matsuda, Angela Yarber, Robin Rice, Alice Rader (I even was the "drummer" for her work), Dana Lupton, Latifa Kropf, Sally Moravitz (here I was taken back to my classes with Doris Humphrey and her falls), Connie Tyler, Sharon Werth, Greg Burrows, Harriett Campbell, Joceile Nordwall, Kathryn Mihelick, Claire Barratt, and Debbie Danbrook.

And in just a week we celebrated "50 years of dance as a sacred art."

The Winter issue of the *Sacred Dance Guild Journal* will have the theme "Four Seasons of Sacred Dance."

Please continue to send your news, as well as dates for the Calendar of Events, to Toni' Intravaia, Editor, 201 Hewitt, Carbondale, Illinois 62901, and send your news from Chapters to Emmalyn Moreno, PO Box 357, San Luis Rey, CA 92068. The deadlines are August 15, November 15, and March 15.

Letter to the Editor

From Elaine Friedrich, Santa Barbara, California

Having just read through your latest SDG Journal, I am moved to let you know how much I admire your talent and perseverance. You've done such a great job for so many years. I hope you feel appreciated!

The comments about so many friends and acquaintances have set me to reminiscing (as old folks do). I am thinking of the time in the mid-thirties when I wrote to invite Ted Shawn and his men dancers to attend a dinner and reception at our sorority house after a matinee performance in Chicago. At Northwestern I happened to be president of both Orchesis and the sorority and since our cook worked at Jacob's Pillow in the summers, I thought that her good food would lure them, especially in those depression days. It did! And sitting next to Shawn at dinner was memorable.

Later I took classes with "Miss Ruth" in Los Angeles and still later from her associate, Elyse Roberts, who led me into the Sacred Dance Guild.

How I wished I could attend the 50th Anniversary Festival! I couldn't even make it to Doug Adams' memorial, but was pleased that my son, temporarily living in Berkeley, was one of the planners of the event and celebrant at the Communion service.

Again, thanks for all you do. I thought of you all in July as I did a little Tai Chi on my patio.

Presidents Parade at Festival 2008

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Another Fall of Sacred Dance

Dance, Determination and Being Catholic

By Elaine Herg Sisler

My Aunt Helen was a real character. We lived together in the same house for twenty-two years. She never held a grudge and taught me to create joy to balance the sadness that comes with life's struggles. She was our family clown, often laughing on the outside while crying on the inside. She did not have an easy life.

My earliest memories of Aunt Helen are of her lifting me up onto a table and saying "Dance baby dance!" and teaching me how to pray the rosary. I have been dancing and praying with great fervor ever since. As a nursing aide at Our Lady of Victory hospital in Lackawanna, New York, she danced for the patients who were sad and elderly. In her silly blue wig, hula skirt and oversized sunglasses, she danced at every family event and celebration until her bones were too brittle to support her.

Aunt Helen was very supportive and instrumental in my growth both artistically and spiritually. I danced for her up until her dying days, the last time in the privacy of her living room. It was then she sadly confessed she didn't dance or pray the rosary any more. I told her not to worry because I would dance and pray enough for the both of us. Dance has always been a significant part of my relationship with Aunt Helen. Therefore, when helping to plan her Memorial Service this past spring, I thought it quite fitting to honor her with a dance. Knowing that liturgical dance is sometimes unpopular or foreign to some Catholic congregations, I checked with the diocese and received the following response: "Elaine, I was forwarded your inquiry with regard to liturgical dance. I discussed it with our Office of Worship, who confirmed that the Diocese of Buffalo has no norms/regulations with regard to disallowing liturgical dance. This is a pastoral decision left to the pastor. I hope this is helpful".

When I spoke to the presiding priest and requested to dance at the Memorial service, he quickly responded, "Dance is not part of our parish culture". I asked him to discuss the matter with the pastor and he agreed. I faxed a letter to the pastor explaining my relationship with my aunt, the diocesan policy and assured him that our family and friends would not be offended but rather touched by the tribute saying: "My intention is to honor my aunt's memory through danced prayer that connects us to the divine with the integration of body, mind and spirit. I am attaching an article for your information by Jesuit priest Robert VerEecke. I have taken workshop classes and danced in a Holy Week service with Father VerEecke. He is deeply spiritual and helped me to grow and understand that our precious bodies can be effective and beautiful vehicles for meditation and prayer. Thank you for your consideration of my request."

The next day, I received a phone call from the presiding priest suggesting that I dance the communion meditation during the Mass! My prayers were answered and I could just see my Aunt Helen dancing with glee in the celestial realm.

My dance was short and sweet. I processed holding a lit candle that I placed on a table with Aunt Helen's picture and rosary. I danced to a song titled "The Mystery of the Rosary" which is essentially the "Hail Mary" prayer sung in gospel style by Elvis Presley, one of Aunt Helen's favorite singers. So there I was rosary in hand dancing my heart out for the Lord, his Blessed Mother, family, friends, Elvis, Aunt Helen and me! There was prolonged silence after the dance and I could feel the Holy Spirit dancing through my veins. I kissed Aunt Helen's picture, blew out the candle and thanked God for Aunt Helen, danced prayer and another sacred dance victory!

My Goodness 50 Years Old

By Gloria Castano

My goodness 50 years old, Congratulations Sacred Dance Guild! I remember clearly when you were 20 years old since that's when I knew you best. Actually, you were 19 when I took your hand, passed on to me lovingly by our revered Mary Jane Wolbers. That moment led a path from Kirkridge, Pennsylvania to Beverly, Massachusetts. We danced by the sea with soaring spirits such as Moshiko Halevy teaching Yemenite dances, also Murray McNair, Music; other offerings were Maskmaking, Sufi and Yoga.

It began in 1977 and throughout the next seven years we took a journey experiencing themes of Drama with Carla DeSola, Art and Theology with Sister Vincent dePaul, Judith Rock and Sylvia Bryant; Music with Calliope Consort; Clowning with Reverend Dana Schlegel, Carlynn and David Reed and Richard Clairmont; also artist and dancer Tinker Tarver and Music with Lindsey Huddleston.

Healing was a highlight offering especially since it brought us Starfire and Carolyn Dietering. These are but a few who graced the Festivals of that time.

Then on to Denver, San Antonio and Miami. Dancing, dancing, dancing all of those years and up to this very one - is our beloved editor and educator, Toni' Intravaia making note of every step and event of our ongoing history.

O, Sacred Dance Guild, in your youth you were breathtaking, fresh - so spirited! We, who led the way in those years salute the mature "teacher" you have become. We watch you embrace the most sacred in all cultures. We see you support the single voice in a small village and create platforms and teaching opportunities for scholars.

You are indeed all grown up and we in Massachusetts, who knew you when, are very, very proud to have been a part of who you are now. So, on this very special 50th occasion we say Happy Birthday! And, we send our love.

Gloria Castano, Jary Yoos, Sybille Volz, and Joan Sparrow, SDG Festival Committee 1977-83. Photo circa 1980.

Deep South Sacred Dancers at Festival 2008

By Betty Wooddy

First time participant Dina Melley described Festival as "an amazing week that I'll cherish for the rest of my life. I feel renewed in my teaching as well as in my dancing and my spirit is flying! I discovered so much about myself, met wonderful people and pray that I'll be able to hold onto this feeling of rejuvenation for a long, long time."

Dina traveled from Baton Rouge, La. with Anne Marks, Charlotte Fitzsimons, and Betty Wooddy who were celebrating 20 years of sacred dance for Alleluia Dance Ensemble and Broadmoor UMC Liturgical Dance Choir. After a joint dance celebration earlier in the year, members of these groups spent a glorious week at SDG Festival. Marie Guston, Anne's sister from Houston, joined them to complete the Deep South Dancers sisterhood.

Highlights for members of the Deep South Sacred Dancers were:

A class with pioneer sacred dancer Carla DeSola, who moves with the grace and serenity of a prayer filled life of dance.

Judith Rock's class which explored limitations that are assumed, chosen or imposed. Judith's talk on "Poinsettias, Naked Ladies, and Tubas" was filled with wisdom and delight.

Andrea Shearer, who taught all dance exercises and even the dance to" Somebody Loves Me Like a River" with participants sitting in chairs.

Dana Lupton's class which provided understanding on interactive conflict resolutions through movement. These exercises could be used in all communities.

Wesley Yarber, who demonstrated a passion for dance and interest in mentoring the men and young boy in the class while teaching choreography to "Revelations".

DIVINITY IN MOTION

By Sandi Kahn Shelton, New Haven Register Staff, New Haven, Connecticut

Wesley Yarbor of West Haven has danced with Alvin Ailey; he's been directed by Bob Fosse in the Broadway musical "Dancin'," and he teaches ongoing classes in dance and movement at the University of New Haven. But for the past year, he's discovered a new way of expressing his joy in movement: He's joined the Sacred Dance Guild, a group of 700 people nationwide who encourage the expression of the divine through dance. And it's here that Yarbor says he's truly found a deep source of spirituality through dance. "Movement is a blessing from God. You can be a non-dancer or a professional dancer and experience the joy of movement in the expression of your soul. It brings out a spirit that's electric."

Karen Josephson of New Haven couldn't agree more. She joined the Sacred Dance Guild 25 years ago at its silver jubilee festival - and this summer, when the organization celebrates its 50th anniversary, she will be honored as a "living legacy," one of six dancers who has helped to shape the Sacred Dance Guild. She will also be installed as president this summer, which will be the fifth time she has served in that capacity. Josephson, who holds a doctorate in theology and the performing arts from the Graduate Theology Union in Berkeley, California, has long been a dancer in her own right, trained in modern dance, tap and ballet.

"Before I joined, I always thought that sacred dance wasn't for real dancers," she says. "I thought of it as people just waving their hands at God. But sacred dance is really a linking between the human and the divine, a linking that includes the body. It's for all denominations, all ethnic groups and faiths. It's saying, 'Let's praise the divine,' and whatever that means to you is fine. It's an umbrella for getting lots of people together and moving."

In some areas and among some denominations, the whole idea of dancing as a way of worshipping God seems foreign, even threatening. Josephson herself has run into resistance from congregations at times.

Once, in Wisconsin, at a church where she was invited to hold a weekend workshop in sacred dance, members of a congregation threatened to walk out of the service if there was dancing. But when Josephson taught them movements to accompany "The Lord's Prayer," those who had planned to leave decided to stay instead. Later, they told Josephson that they had experienced a powerful sense of reconciliation.

"With sacred dance," she says, "there's a chemistry connection between people. Your body understands what's happening when you see someone dancing. Sacred dance is all about denominations: Buddhist, Hindus, Judaism, Christianity. And it can be any kind of dance: ballet, modern dance, tap and also hip-hop. These are all sacred."

Contact Sandi Kahn Shelton at sandishelton @comcast.net Copyright, © All Rights Reserved

Our Life Members

By Ellen Roberts Young, Membership Director

Nine people took advantage of our anniversary "sale" on life membership this past February when the Guild turned fifty. This included two who already had life membership and bought one for someone else. These people have expressed confidence that the Guild will continue, at the same time that they help that to happen with an influx of cash. Our nine new life members are:

Sarah Abts, Ohio
Indi Dieckgrafe-Dreyer, Indiana
Jean Hagedorn, Southern California
Stella Matsuda, Southern California
Vivian Nicholl, New Hampshire
Araceli Pedraza, Southern California
Cathy Saine, Southern California
Deena Sherman, Illinois
Carol Sundquist, New York

These nine join 23 others who have paid for a life membership in the past, some many years ago, others quite recently:

Elizabeth Anderson, MI
Priscilla Baxter, CT
Gloria Castano, MA
Audrey Mason Champion, MD
Elaine Friedrich, CA
Geri Gaebel, NY
Mary Katherine Greenlaw, VA
Sheri Gysel, MI
Ruth LM Klingaman, PA
Carla Kramer, OH
Martha Merideth, NY
Carolyn Moon, NY
Louisa Moorhouse, ON, Canada
Emmalyn Moreno, CA
JoAnne Orr, OH
Cynthia Priem, KY
Pulelehua Ruth Marie Quirk, HI
Joan Sparrow, MA
Lana Spraker, CA
Asha Stager, ME
Barbara Tener, CA
Jary Yoos, MA
Charles Yopst, IL

The current cost of a life membership, $1,000, is equal to 20 years of regular annual dues. If you expect to be dancing longer than 20 more years, it's a bargain. If you have the means to plan ahead in this matter, consider the advantage of never again having to remember to make a dues payment.

Reverend Dana Ray Schlegel

By Kay Troxell

The Reverend Dana Ray Schlegel was nominated to Honorary Life Membership in the Sacred Dance Guild. The Board of Directors voted at the February meeting to make him the Guild's seventh Honorary Life Member and to announce their vote at the Annual Meeting. Kay Troxell, a long-time friend, introduced Dana to the membership.

Dana Schlegel and I met in 1974, kneeling opposite each other on the cold, stone steps of the Lancaster (PA) Theological Seminary. We were to be partners in a dance we had learned at a Sacred Dance Workshop led by the Sacred Dance Choir of Center Church of Manchester, CT. We had both just joined the Guild and were dancing in the Seminary Chapel Service. In the many years since, Dana and I have danced together and separately.

Becoming more and more active in the Guild, Dana has served as Secretary during Carlynn Reed's Presidency and as Vice President during Barrie Gibby's Term of Office. He has taught at Festivals and served as a Festival Chaplain many times. He was a member of the Board at Large, helped to write the first membership brochure, was active in the formation of the Constitution Chapter from the old Eastern Pennsylvania Region. (It was Dana who suggested the name "Constitution.")

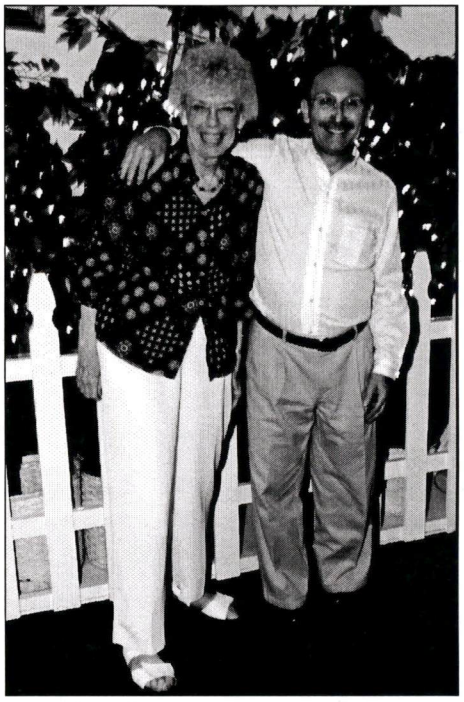
Dana danced, choreographed, advised and provided creative inspiration to the Guild during the 1970s, '80s, and '90s.

As a graduate of Albright College (Reading, PA) and the Lancaster Theological Seminary, Dana was ordained a minister of the United Church of Christ. He has served as an Associate Pastor, Pastor, and Interim Pastor at nine churches in Eastern Pennsylvania. He also danced and served in the Worship and Preaching Department of the Lancaster Seminary. He was Director of their Arts in Ministry Program which included dance, drama, mime, and puppetry.

Wherever he went Dana sowed the seeds of Sacred Dance and the Guild. He gave lecture demonstrations, developed dance choirs where he was called, produced, choreographed and costumed many dances at regional and national Conferences of the United Church of Christ. Creativity is Dana's middle name.

During the past few years Dana has served as Program Consultant to the Penn Central Conference of the UCC encouraging pastors to open their churches to the Arts: puppetry, clowning and especially dance. Today, Dana is semi-retired and lives in Lititz, PA. People still call and write to him concerning sacred dance and, of course, he happily responds. He serves part-time as a Chaplain at the Hospice of Lancaster County.

Dana has combined years of training in dance with membership in a Modern Dance Company. (He danced the role of Job in a major production of the Biblical story.) His Seminary education has given him a sound religious background which can be interpreted in movement, and he has been a leader as he has served many congregations. All this plus his creativity and devotion to sacred dance have been his gifts to the Sacred Dance Guild for 34 years. The Guild thanks you.



Kay Troxell and Dana Schlegel

This Fall in Sacred Dance

By C. Noelle Partusch

My twins will start pre-school this fall. Potty training is well underway and there are strict schedules to adhere to. There will still be time for sacred dance.

I will continue teaching at the college this fall. I will advise many students, prepare syllabi, create and grade exams and attend committee meetings. There will still be time for sacred dance.

The director of our dance department was recently diagnosed with breast cancer and will soon undergo surgery. There will be classes to substitute for, schedules to assist with and temporary filling-in of all kinds. There will still be time for sacred dance.

My 96 year-old grandmother will continue some rehabilitation this fall. She suffered a stroke several months ago and the doctors discovered she had bladder cancer as well. She doesn't venture too far anymore and many nurses and caregivers come and go to keep her as well as she can be. There will still be time for sacred dance.

Fall is one of my favorite times of the year. I love the cool, crispness in the air and the beautiful colors of the turning leaves. I look forward to putting on cozy sweaters that have been packed away for the warmer months. I get excited about fall festivals, picking apples and carving pumpkins. Teaching in an academic environment, many things start anew - new classes, new students, new colleagues - a chance to reach another group of students. Many things will be happening in my life this fall. Most of them are planned but there will always be something that occurs and catches me off guard. There will still be time for sacred dance.

No matter what joys or sorrows, triumphs or troubles come my way, I will always find time for sacred dance. The ability to dance has been given to me by my God. Dancing has been my joy, my solace, my excitement, my grieving, my therapy, and my gift. I have danced for the Lord in front of many types of gatherings, sometimes even where I was doubted or unwanted. Thankfully I have only ever received positive responses from onlookers, the credit for which must be given to the Holy Spirit.

Fall is a beautiful time of the calendar year for me but this year fall will be wrought with difficulties, new challenges, and perhaps even sorrow. Through all of it, known or unknown, planned or unplanned, I will continue to dance for the glory of my God who strengthens me. The scriptures tell us to "pray unceasingly" and if dance is our art, our passion, and our way of touching, connecting with, and healing those around us, then we must also "dance unceasingly." And we can do it all with complete assurance because the Lord will be there in the Fall.

Sharing the Sacred Dance Guild "Down Under"

By Tricia Mary Lee

What a fantastic Festival!! What a sensational gathering of "moving mysteries". What a warm memory of dancing, sharing, learning, laughter and inspiration.

From the Welcome song of the North, South, East and West in the Opening Ceremony, to the spiral farewell led by Carla in the Closing Ceremony, I felt a beautiful sense of immersion in Sacred Dance which has left me uplifted and "enlightened" as well as more supple and skilled as a dancer.

As the participant who, I believe, came from the most southern part of the globe, (South West Australia) I especially appreciated the open arms of friendship and support which embraced me from my first e-mail enquiries of Wendy Morrell and Kat Pettycrew, way back in the year when I was making my initial decision to make the trip to USA, through to the Scholarship committee, who blessed me with financial support and from all the Festival participants and presenters with whom I felt privileged to dance to the lovely ladies from Virginia who were still teaching me on the train back to New York. I give great thanks to you all.

The Language of Dance held Sacred infused it's magic and mystery into my heart, my bones, my life blood. This I carry with me as I travel home and this I wish to share. The Work of the Sacred Dance Guild is I believe at the cutting edge globally and so the challenge for each of us seems to be how we not only keep building our own practice but how we help the Guild to extend and reach more hearts, more dancers, more participants, across the globe.

My feeling and thinking during the Festival seemed to lead me to reflect on how we celebrate this miracle we know of as the dancing body. This moved on in the direction of wanting to collate a series of articles, stories, quotes from the presenters and participants at the Festival, explaining the how's and why's of this amazing and diverse experience which we recognise as 'Sacred Dance' for those who may be seeking to understand more deeply as I myself was when I first joined the Guild four years ago.

With the approval of the Board at the Guild I feel we can create a book which would not only create a wider understanding of Sacred Dance and the work of the Guild, but which could also generate income for the Guild and the Scholarship Fund. I would welcome any feedback, suggestions, offers of help or support on this by e-mail to globalgypsy@mac.com.

In the meantime I am reflecting on dance and "the body miracle" from my standpoint as a Reflexologist. I wonder about the connection between the heart reflex on the ball of the foot and the consequences on the body and the energy field of the stimulation to this reflex which happens naturally when we dance. Are we simply opening our hearts to receive more love in the dance? Are we strengthening our auras / energy fields by charging them with love? Is the thymus gland, which governs the heart, stimulated to boost our immune system with regular dance practice? Surely to live in good health and feel boosted by the glow of positive energy when we dance is Sacred Work in itself for the "Body Miracle" which we have been given for this life on earth. If there has been research on this then I would definitely love to hear about it. If not, I may feel a research project coming on?

So, you see, the Mystery seems to be moving in amazing ways as I wend my way back home, but again, the packing calls, ... for first, that trip to Paris!

Blessings to you all, may we dance across the globe together,

P.S. To the Canadians, yes I made it, loved it and wish to return!!

FESTIVAL SCHOLARSHIPS

By Joceile Nordwall, Phyllis Strader, Shannon Tennant

The Guild was able to offer eleven full tuition scholarships for Festival 2008. How we wish we could have offered many more! There were so many excellent applications that the scholarship committee struggled to choose the recipients.

These are the women who received scholarships this year, with a brief description of their qualifications and a few words from their applications:

BRIANNA BOLAND is a member of Americorps and was a choreographer and dancer in Goucher College's Sacred Ground liturgical dance group. Brianna said, "Since becoming a Christian artist I'd been working to reconcile my faith and my art, until I realized that the two go hand in hand."

DIANA BURTON is a dancer with the Fredericksburg (VA) Sacred Dance Ensemble. In her application she stated, "I know I will benefit greatly by sharing dance, learning new ways of worshipping and fellowshipping with so many kindred spirits."

JESSICA CLARK helps coordinate the dance ministry at St Joseph's parish in Ottawa. "I am very fortunate that we have a very alive group in Ottawa where I can go and feed my inner dancer and receive the energy I need and just dance for the pure joy of it."

RENATE GOUTIER says, "Ecumenical and interreligious events promoting common understanding are my passion; they are excellent opportunities to utilize sacred dance as a way of opening hearts and minds." Renate incorporates dance teaching into religious education and is working toward a master's degree in Pastoral Theology.

ANGELA JOY LAMB dances with the Jubilation Dancers of Gales Ferry, Connecticut and has been a member of the Guild for several years, even though she's only 17! She said, "Dancing is one of the most important things in my life. Every year my mother and I go to the Festival together."

TRICIA MARY LEE came all the way from Australia to bless us with her presence. Her application stated, "I realize now that every step I have ever danced has pertinence for my work in the nature of sacred dance." We'll hope that Tricia will be at our next Festival.

DANA LUPTON was on our Festival faculty and performed in the Faculty concert. She's co-founder and executive and artistic director of "Moving in the Spirit", a youth development organization in Atlanta. Dana has been awarded grants supported by the N.E.A., Rockefeller Foundation and the Andy Warhol Foundation. Dana says, "I believe that God has created me to investigate the intersection between the sacred and the secular."

JESSICA MCDANIEL says she has musical training but had no previous dance experience until she joined the Fredericksburg Sacred Dance Ensemble. There, she says, "it has been a joy and a privilege to praise God in a new way". Her fellow ensemble members report, "God has sent us a dancer with a glorious singing voice!"

IRENE TY is an ordained minister who works with a mostly Filipino congregation in Ontario. This was Irene's first Festival, and she felt that, "a week at the Festival will give me a good grounding and will bring me to another level." We hope it did!

ANGELA YARBER delivered a fascinating series of lectures each day of Festival called "Learning about Dance in Comparative Religions". She is in a doctoral program in Art and Religion, and she serves as Associate Pastor of Arts and Education at Shell Ridge Community Church. Her application stated, "Much of what I learned at last year's Festival was utilized in my own parish where I taught dances and concepts based on what I learned."

Our eleventh recipient, Rebekah Patton, had a family emergency and was unable to attend the Festival this year. We look forward to seeing her at the next one. Scholarship money also helped to bring the local youth dance groups that attended Festival the first day and danced in the concert that evening.

A Poem

By Elaine Herg Sisler

On the occasion of returning home from "Moving Mysteries" our Golden Jubilee Sacred Dance Festival 2008

Carla DeSola leading the closing circle.

Festival Dancers

Festival dancers you enrich my soul
You fill my heart and help me feel whole

Each step we take emitting graces
The beaming smiles upon your faces

Lift me high to soar above
And dance the dances that I love

You beckon me to move with glee
Shedding pain and feeling free

To stretch myself beyond all woes
Forgetting sore knees and aching toes

You dance me to a place of peace
So for a fleeting moment at least

I am young again and spiraling free
Revealing to you the real me

Dancing Into our Next 50 Years

By JoyBeth Lufty, SDG President Elect

Any 50th or Jubilee Celebration involves an honoring of the past, special gatherings in the present, and active dreamwork for the future. Our Sacred Dance Guild's 50th year's honoring and gathering culminated in our Moving Mysteries Festival held in New London, Connecticut, in July. Our active dreamwork for the future has been happening all year long through its all-volunteer working Board of Directors.

Our Sacred Dance Guild's Board of Directors has been working on expanding its programming and tweaking its Board structure in order to keep it vital and growing in the 21st Century. While its traditional Festivals will continue to be a major focus, local Chapters and programming, as well as global travel and connections will be emphasized. In order to do so, our Sacred Dance Guild's Board is currently undergoing changes that will provide more team support and active committee work.

A detailed Organizational Timeline Guide and revised Board Job Descriptions that outline the tasks necessary to provide this expanding programming will be implemented this coming year. Your current President, President Elect, and Vice President will function as a Leadership Team, each with specific tasks designed to administrate this organization effectively, as well as to provide leadership training for the SDG Presidency. Your Secretary and Treasurer will work hand in glove with this leadership team., with their specific tasks that aid in the administrative and financial areas of this membership-based nonprofit organization.

Continuing to integrate The Team Concept into the day to day structure and activities of The Sacred Dance Guild, its Board of Directors have begun to implement teams of CoDirectors that will need committee members to help get all the work done that is necessary for accomplishing its mission and goals during the next 50 years. These CoDirector Teams are: Programs, Resources, Public Relations, Development, and Membership.

As we all dance together into our next 50 years of promoting and integrating Sacred Dance into our lives and world, think about becoming a board member or helping out with the work of your Sacred Dance Guild by becoming a committee member helping to produce promotional plans and obtain financing, to publish our Journals/Membership Directory/Website, collect and distribute Sacred Dance resources, sponsor festivals/local programs/Sacred Dance Journeys, and support/expand our Chapters. Contact us and let us know how you would like to be involved: www.sacreddanceguild.org, phone 877-422-88678, Sacred Dance Guild, 550M Ritchie Highway #271, Severna Park, MD 21146, info@sacreddanceguild.org.

IN MEMORIAM
Ernestine Stodelle

By Betsy O'Neill, M.A.

Ernestine Stodelle died on January 5, 2008 at the age of 95. Ernestine was a pioneer modern dancer who performed with Doris Humphrey and Jose' Limon. She was an original member of the Humphrey-Weidman Company. Later she reconstructed many of the Humphrey dances including "The Shakers" and was a leading expert on their performance. Ms. Stodelle was also a distinguished dance scholar, critic and educator. She taught at New York University and she directed her own Studio of Dance for many years in Cheshire, Connecticut. She also wrote definitive books on the work of Martha Graham (Deep Song: The Dance Story of Martha Graham) and on the technique of Doris Humphrey (The Dance Technique of Doris Humphrey and Its Creative Potential).

The Sacred Dance Guild was honored with Ernestine Stodelle's presence at Festival 2005 at Connecticut College. Along with Mary Anthony, Jeanne Bresciani, Sally Carlson Crowell, Toni' Intravaia and Mary Jane Wolbers, she graced our Roots Panel. At that time she said that for her and dance "It was love at first sight." She continued saying that while sometimes it was "hard work and suffering," dance was "liberation" and "joy." Ernestine shared that while on her way to our Roots Panel she had just figured out that her aim in life was "to find Beauty and Meaning." For those of us who were privileged to be her students, she certainly brought both beauty and meaning to our lives.

IN MEMORIAM
Elsie M. Keefe

Elsie M. Keeffe had a Service of Death and Resurrection at the Wesley United Methodist Church, Concord, New Hampshire on January 16, 2008. She was a very active member of the Sacred Dance Guild. She had four Sacred Dance Choirs that she directed right up to her death: The St. Matthew's Ecumenical Sacred Dance Choir, the Havenwood-Heritage Heights Choir, the Youth and Adult Choirs at the First United Methodist Church in Manchester.

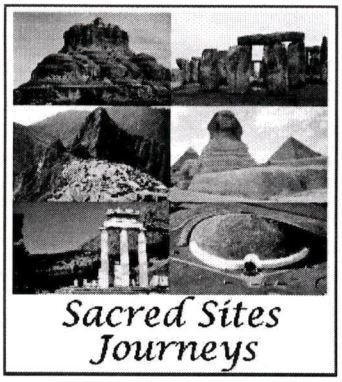
Her first Sacred Dance Choir was at the Wesley United Methodist Church in Concord in 1969. Elsie's first Sacred Dance Workshop was at the Bangor Theological Seminary in Bangor, Maine, in 1972.

IN MEMORIAM - Doug Adams

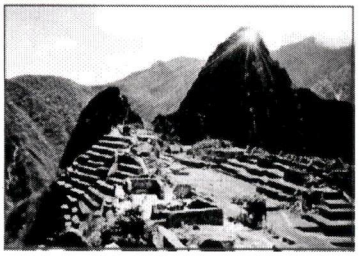
By Dr. Joan Carter, President CARE

On October 14th CARE and the Pacific School of Religion co-sponsored a memorial day titled the "Doug Adams Festival of the Arts." People came from all over the United States to honor him and pay tribute to his ground breaking work in religion and the arts. It was an amazing day as we moved from venue to venue ending with an outdoor candle lit communion service.

Kat Pettycrew's quilt made from festival logos. It was displayed at Festival 2008.



Sacred Dance Journey to PERU



June 28— July 6, 2009

Sponsored by The Sacred Dance Guild

Founded in 1958, The Sacred Dance Guild, an international, multicultural, interfaith, nonprofit organization, promotes Sacred Dance as prayer, and as a means of spiritual growth, connection to The Divine, and integration of mind, body, and spirit. www.sacreddanceguild.org

Tour Hostess and Featured Dancer: Dr. JoyBeth Lufty

Sacred Dance Guild President Elect

Tour Director and Featured Speaker: Andrea Mikana-Pinkham

Director of Sacred Sites Journeys & Andean Shamanic Practitioner

Tour Guide: Dr. Jose (Pepe) Altamirano

Peruvian Mystic and Ritual Specialist in the Inca Spiritual Tradition
Former Director of the National Institute of Culture
Former Executive Director of the National Park of Sacsayhuaman
Author of *Sacsayhuaman: The Most Powerful Temple of the Andean Culture*

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- Two flights in Peru: Lima/Cusco; Juliaca/Lima
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- First-class hotels, including taxes, service charges & daily buffet breakfast
- Other meals, as per the itinerary
- Pre-paid Gratuities
- Free Peruvian Tourist Visa upon your arrival in Lima
- Fully escorted from Cusco by Andrea Mikana-Pinkham, Director of Sacred Sites Journeys
- Excellent bilingual Tour Guide Dr. Jose (Pepe) Altamirano

NOT INCLUDED:

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- Travel with Dr. JoyBeth Lufty, Sacred Dance Guild members, & others interested in Sacred Dance
- Learn and participate in Body Prayers led with Dr. JoyBeth Lufty
- Shared Dancing with members of the Sacred Dance Guild
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- Sites in and around Cusco: Sacsayhuaman, Tambo Machay & Temple of the Moon, with a special blessing from the Q'ero Elders, last remaining descendants of the Incas
- Sites in the Sacred Valley of the Incas: Pisac and Ollantaytambo
- Machu Picchu, 7th Wonder of the World - with plenty of free time to explore on your own! Special Sunrise Ceremony at Machu Picchu
- Traditional Andean ceremonies with Dr. Jose (Pepe) Altamirano, Andrea Mikana-Pinkham & the Q'ero Elders
- Special Welcome Dinner with Andean musicians and dancers
- Uros Floating Islands - dance with the Islanders!
- Aramu Muru's Doorway
- Magic Dream Pillow Art Project & used clothing share with local children at Lake Titicaca
- Farewell Dinner at Lake Titicaca, with Andean musicians and dancers
- Optional at Lake Titicaca: Traditional Coca Leaf Readings; Visit to the Fertility Temple; Spa Facilities and Massage

RECOMMENDED READING / VIEWING

More ideas for working with seniors? Order book *Soul to Sole with Seniors* edited by Margaret Taylor Doane and Jeannine Bunyan. Order from Jeannine Bunyan Jump4JoyJB1@verizon.net.

And We Have Danced, Volumes I, II, and III. Sharing Company printed the first volume and Henry Printing printed the last two volumes. Volume I has the male dancers on the covers, front and back. Volume II has female dancers on the covers. And Volume III has Youth sacred dancers on the cover, as well as a sacred dance Group on the cover. All volumes are still available, but Volume III is most special in celebration of our 50th anniversary. This third volume would certainly be a great gift for not only members but those interested in sacred dance. (Cost $20.00 including postage and handling) Order from Toni' Intravaia, 201 Hewitt, Carbondale, Illinois 62901

A Practical Guide to Dancing in Worship by Deena Bess Sherman, M.A. Liturgical dance is the practice of sacred dance within the context of liturgical worship. This book provides historical, theological background and practical advice from someone who has danced and worked with groups of dancers for many years.

Send your order with a check or money order ($12 per book and $3.00 shipping) to: Deena Sherman, PO Box 119, North Aurora, IL 60542. (If you would like your book signed, please specify the name. Otherwise it will simply be autographed.)

Journal of Dance Education, Volume 8, Number 2, 2008, J. Michael Ryan Publishing, Inc., 24 Crescent Drive North, Andover, NJ 07821. This issue features Dance and Spirituality with Guest Editor Karen Clemente. The articles include: Dance as Sacred Expression, The Spiritual Connection: Ruminations and Curiosities from a Dance Artist, Experiencing the Sacred in Dance Education: Wonder, Compassion, Wisdom, and Wholeness in the Classroom, Praise Dance in Community: An Interview with Reverend Dr. Albirda Rose-Eberhardt, and The Sacred or the Profane: The Challenge of Modern Dance in Religious Educational Settings. *(Editor's Note: These articles are great inspirations.)*

Visit the Sacred Dance Guild Web Site
www.sacreddanceguild.com

Resources from the Festival

From the Sacred Service

Phil Porter's Gathering Chant is #742 in *The New Century Hymnal* by Pilgrim Press

The words to Starfire's Song are: "Do you know how much your love means? Do you know how many hearts you have lifted? Do you know your love is healing? What a wonderful feeling!"

"Elm Dance" music, dance and story: www.JoannaMacy.net.

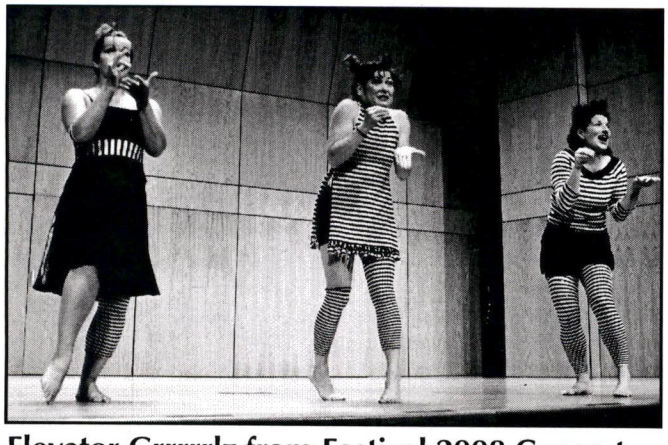
"Song of the Soul" from *Everflowing Streams* edited by Ruth Duck and Michael G. Bausch.

From Karen Josephson's Sign/Dance Workshop

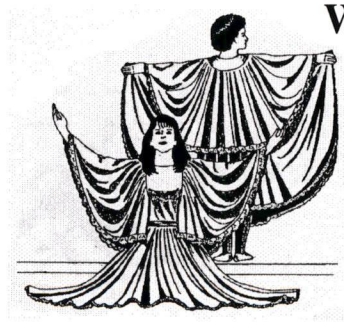
"Lead Kindly Light" and "Bound Together" are both by Ken Medema, and can be found through www.kenmedema.com.

American Sign Language (ASL) websites include: www.aslpro.com, www.asl.ms, www.lifeprint.com, www.deafplanet.com/splash.php

For those interested in ordering butterfly wings like the ones worn by Jean Ando at the recent Festival, please contact: Noelle Faulkner, firebirdfaeriewear@earthlink.net, 707-433-5025, Noelle resides at 445 North Street, Heraldsburg, CA 95448.



Elevator Grrrrrlz from Festival 2008 Concert



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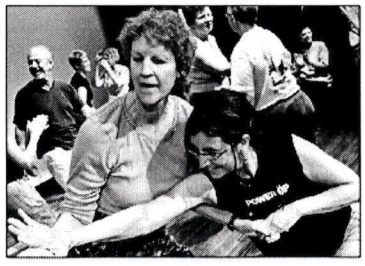

This Fall: **"Untensive" Retreats** and **"The Secrets of InterPlay"** in Washington, D.C., Iowa, East Texas, Michigan, California, India, Seattle, and Oakland. Check the website for full details.

www.interplay.org
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YOUTH ACTIVITIES

Youth Wisdom

By Jump for Joy, Jeannine Bunyan

Recently I had care of my granddaughter on the day of my Celebrate Life Class for seniors, and I was looking forward to having her participate. She knows that I teach dancing, but I have never discussed the "Spiritual" dimension of my work with her. On occasion I have shown her a few simple ballet steps. However, this would be her first experience of taking an actual class from her grandmother. I felt it wise to advise the students of this, telling them to come prepared to "Tap into your inner child!"

Sacred Circle: We always assemble each class in our Sacred Circle surrounding a candle, symbolizing the Light and Love of God. Passing Love, is a gentle hand squeeze moving right around circle in direction of earth's rotation. While looking lovingly into eyes of neighbor, right hand turned down, Love is given. Then passing through the Heart, Love is received into left hand turned up of next person, until Love has connected the entire Sacred Circle.

God Centered People: We talk about the Circle being a Sacred Shape. It is the symbol of God's Love, because there is "No beginning or end!" As we acknowledge being God Centered People, we recognize that, "God has No Favorites + We are all Equal in God's Eyes + We all have Equal Access to God's Love!"

To better experience this in what Margaret Taylor Doane would call "Symbolic Movement," we put our talk into action. In other words we "walk our talk." We stretch our circle so large that our hands can no longer touch, yet we know that we are still connected in the Invisible Clasp of Love. We also know that, should a newcomer enter the room, Love can always stretch to include another.

Rejoining hands and with mincing steps, we move center toward the Light of Love, until we are shoulder to shoulder. For many years, this is the way I have opened each class or workshop. At this shoulder to shoulder moment, I will customarily ask, "As we move closer to God, what happens to us?" I continue to ask encouraging questions until someone eventually offers the answer, "We get closer to each other." This is the answer I have accepted for years. Well-

Youth Wisdom: On this occasion, I looked directly at my granddaughter, asking my usual question and expecting the usual answer. Without a moment's hesitation, her simple answer came forth, "We become a community." Everyone's jaw dropped in utter amazement at this wisdom from an eleven year old! All agreed that her answer is superior!

The words of Isaiah come to mind, "And a little child shall lead them!" Yes, we may be shoulder to shoulder in a group, but this does not necessarily mean that we are a Community. It is the Light and Love of God which binds us together in Community as God Centered People.

Dear friends, we just celebrated 50 Years of our Sacred Dance Guild=God Centered Community. Now let us continue moving Forward in Faith, entering a fresh Fall Season, while remembering that-

Whatever age, we teach each other!

Advertise in the SDG Journal

Ad per ONE (1) issue
One-half page.....$100.00
One-quarter page.....60.00
One-eighth or business card.....40.00

Ad per THREE (3) issues
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1-10 words.....free
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40+ words (1/8 page).....40.00

For information or assistance in placing an ad, please contact Deena Sherman at Deenabess@yahoo.com

RECIPROCAL AFFILIATIONS

The Sacred Dance Guild has collegial status with the following organizations: This is a reciprocal agreement whereby members of the Guild may attend activities of these organizations at the same fee their own members pay (proof of SDG membership is required). Members of these organizations may attend Guild activities in the same way.

American Dance Guild, P. O. Box 2006, Lenox Hill Station, New York, NY 10021 (212) 932-2789.

International Association for Creative Dance (IACD), 103 Princeton Avenue, Providence, RI 02907, website www.dancecreative.org.

International Liturgical Dance Association (ILDA) of NPM (National Association of Pastoral Musicians), 3215 Bellacre Court, Cincinnati, OH 45248-5005 (513) 451-6746.

National Dance Association, American Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance, 1900 Association Drive, Reston, VA 22091 (703) 476-3436.

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SDG CHAPTER AND REGION NEWS

Rocky Mountain Chapter

Our fall workshop was held on November 10, 2007 at the Illiff School of Theology. We were privileged to have David Taylor as our leader. David is one of our Denver area choreographers and interested in dance as a spiritual art, especially the Sufi traditions. He focused on George Ivanovitch Gurdjieff (1866-1949) and his Sacred Movements. The aim of Gurdjieff"s movements were to assist in the" harmonious development of man" by a method of combining mind and feeling with the movement of the body. We learned how to whirl as a dervish and dance a traditional woman's mourning dance.

Our Sharing Festival was held in the spring on May 3, 2008 at the First United Methodist Church in Golden, Colorado. We welcomed eight groups that shared dances with us. All the participants enjoyed lunch and fellowship afterwards.

May 30 through June I 2008, our annual board retreat and meeting took place at Yuma, Colorado. Yuma is the home of board members Judy Rutledge and Doris Mekelburg and is a small farming community on the eastern plains. The board enjoyed tours of an ethanol plant, a 2,000-cow dairy, and a compost making facility. After practices at the First Presbyterian Church the board members were part of Sunday's service where they shared the following dances, "Send Us Your Spirit" by David Haas, The Lord's Prayer, and "Go Now In Peace".

Constitution Chapter

At its August meeting and planning session, the Constitution Chapter Board set measurable, short-term goals for the upcoming year, as follows:

1. Further develop the workshop models, tentatively called the "***Sacred Dance Workshop Series,***" developed by the Sacred Movement Group of Phoenixville PA (SMG). Hold three workshops from this series in the CC-SDG territory within the next 12 months,

2. Increase semi-annual Chapter-wide workshop attendance to an average of 15 participants,

3. Increase SDG member participation in the local chapter,

4. Plan and implement an SDG Regional Festival for the latter part of 2009 to include a Friday night concert, one or two Saturday workshops, and a possible Sunday worship.

The Sacred Dance Workshop Series *(tentative name)* is designed to bring sacred dance to people within their churches and communities, and to build up sacred dance leaders. The workshop series soon will be pre-packaged with lesson plans, songs, and choreography. As the Sacred Movement Group teaches the series, the CC-SDG hope is to build leaders and empower them to take the workshops out to other locations.

The Sacred Dance Workshop Series consists of three groups of workshops, namely,

I. Christian Dance Workshops (fully developed and 2/3 implemented)

II. Community Dance Workshops (in development)

III. Interfaith Dance Workshops (in development)

Each workshop series will be structured in modules that can be presented separately or consecutively. The fully developed Series I consists of three modules as described in the CC-SDG/SMG brochure:

Christian Dance Workshop #1- approximately 2 hours

Structured to introduce commonly used movements in Christian Praise Dance and to use those movements in actual choreography, Workshop #1 consists of six parts.

* Gathering
* History & Biblical Context of Christian Dance
* Hands (including American Sign Language)
* Feet
* Application-Learn three dances
* Worship

Christian Dance Workshop #2- approximately 90 minutes

Workshop #2 explor es more complex movements and dances. Participants will learn elements used to develop choreography and costuming, including symmetry, levels, speed, intensity, flow, direction, repetition, and color.

Workshop #2 can stand alone or can follow Workshop #1 on the same day after a period of refreshment.

An intermediate experience of Christian dance incorporating symbolic interpretation, drama, and international influences and techniques.

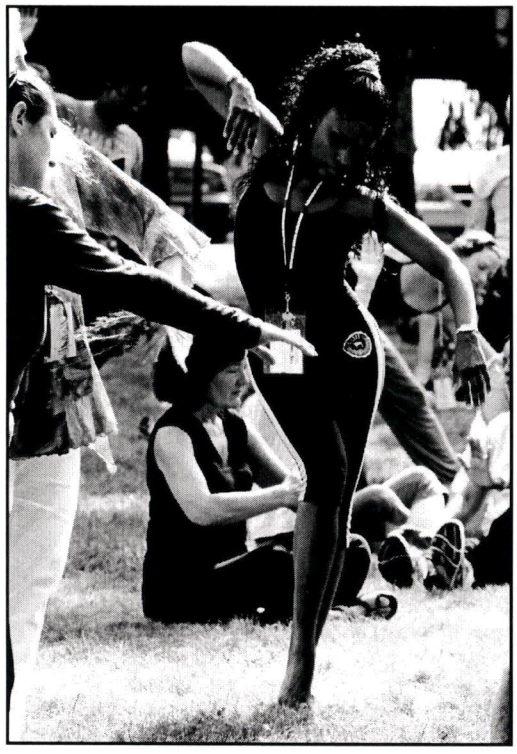
Series I was developed to work comfortably in the Christian Church, with a hope that once familiar with the concept and material, more dance choirs will form. On a sacred level, more people will experience the joy and depth of full-body worship, while on the practical level, providing the CC-SDG a broader base of participants for workshops and SDG membership. The SMG presented Module #1 and #2 of Series I at the Constitution Chapter's spring 2008 sharing workshop. Most of the comments were very positive, encouraging the CC-SDG to further explore the modular concept of dance workshops.

Series II and III are still under development, but the SMG shared some of the concepts and overall vision. The Sacred Movement Group of Phoenixville PA has been presenting dance offerings in the greater Phoenixville area for over ten years. Although some offerings were presented in a community or interfaith context, most of the SMG work centers on the Christian faith. Consequently, the SMG is much more familiar with the language and customs in the Christian environment. Therefore, the workshop series starts with the Christian Dance Workshops. As the SMG gains experience in presenting the workshops throughout the CC-SDG territory, it will also further develop Series II and III. Series II will focus on universal concepts of peace, ecology, respect, and other shared, sacred values, but will be intentionally theology-free. Series II will focus on Senior Centers, Community Centers, parks, and other generic venues.

Series III will be very intentionally interfaith, using dance forms and musical selections from a variety of faith traditions.

The CC-SDG is committed to offering opportunities to experience the beautifully sacred experience of purposeful dance. ***The Sacred Dance Workshop Series*** is a new formula in the continuing efforts of the 26-year-old Constitution Chapter of the Sacred Dance Guild. The CC-SDG will continue to present two chapter-wide workshops, one in October and one in April, but will also seek to present classes within church settings. Please contact SDG members, Brenda Doyle, Karin Goodman, or Kat Pettycrew with requests to present the ***Sacred Dance Workshop Series.***

A class with SDG founder Mary Jane Wolbers at Festival 2008



Festival 2008

(l) Morning Meditation

(c) The Canadians: Leadership Team for Festival 2008

(r) Deep South Sacred Dancers

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CALENDAR

October 9-12, 2008 - "Come to the Banquet: Bring Your Own Plate", Women's Creative Process Retreat: CPR for the Soul, Sacred dance, art, music, Creative writing, dream work, etc., at Solomon Episcopal Retreat Center near Hammond, La. Contact bchallenw@aol.cm

October 18, 2008 - Sacred Dance Guild Workshop, Lakeshore Chapter, at Reba Place Church, Evanston, Illinois with Indi Dieckgrafe and Carolynn Hine-Johnson. Contact: GodDance@yahoogroups.com.

October 27, 2008 - Kamsisi (Roots) Afrian Rituals - International Ritual Journey by African Healer, Masankho Kamsisi Banda - Sacramento, California. Place to be announced. Contact: htto://www.ucandanc.org.

April 8, 2009 - Blessing the sun that rises with healing in its rays: A Prophetic Voice in Jewish, Multireligious, and American Life. Contact: Rabbi Arthur Waskow or carlart@mindspring.com.

June 28-July 6, 2009 - Sacred Dance Journey to Peru, Sponsored by The Sacred Dance Guild with Dr. JoyBeth Lufty, Tour Hostess; Andrea Mikana-Pinkham,Tour Director; Dr. Jose Altamirano, Tour Guide. Contact: JoyBeth Lufty souldelite@aol.com

Executive Board Meetings:
February 6-8, 2009, Burlinngton, North Carolina

Sacred Dance Guild Web Site: www.sacreddanceguild.org

You can apply for membership to the Sacred Dance Guild in three ways: 1) Complete the form and return with your membership dues. 2) Join online at our website, www.sacreddanceguild.org. 3) Email to: ----(see address below).

Name _____ Address_____ City_____ State/Province____
Country/Zip/Postal Code____ Phone_____ Email_____

Membership Dues:		
	1 year Domestic/International Membership	$50
	2 year Domestic/International Membership	$80
	1 year Student Membership	$25
	1 year Senior (65+) Membership	$35
	1 year Group Membership	$90
	Life Membership	$1,000

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